

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (canceled).

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

selecting a particular source-code mode from a plurality of predefined source-code modes;

determining the selected particular source-code mode via at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ included in a frame;

performing channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits ~~and together with~~ the at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ included within the frame; and

performing source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits ~~contained~~ included in the frame.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of selecting the particular source-code mode includes matching the particular source-code mode to at least one of a quality of a transmission channel and a network load.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one mode bit ~~contains~~ includes at least one of signaling information and information for describing reception quality.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

using convolution codes for the step of channel coding; and

selecting the first portion of the data bits as a function of a length of the convolution code.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

using the first portion of the channel-coded data bits for channel decoding of the at least one mode bit.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of the data bits is channel-coded consistently for different code modes in the process of decoding.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one mode bit is channel-decoded only once.

Claims 17-18. (canceled).

Claim 19. (currently amended): A system for processing data structured in frames, comprising:

a coding apparatus that selects a particular source-code mode from a plurality of predefined source-code modes, and determines the selected particular source-code mode via at least one mode bit ~~contained~~included in a frame;

a processing apparatus that performs channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits ~~and together with~~ the at least one mode bit ~~contained~~included within the frame, and performs source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits ~~contained~~included in the frame.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The system for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 19, wherein, via the processor unit, the first portion of the channel-coded data bits is also used for channel decoding the at least one mode bit.